

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL IBADAN

UNCLAS STATE 149709

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SCUL, OTRA, NI

SUBJECT:AMERICAN FORUM PROGRAM IN NIGERIA (DRIMMER, MELVIN)

1. CLEVELAND-BASED AMERICAN FORUM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDY
IS HOLDING THREE-WEEK AFRICAN STUDIES PROGRAM, BEGINNING
JULY 27, AT UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN.

2. PROGRAM DIRECTOR LEO V. RYAN ARRIVING LAGOS ON OR ABOUT
JULY 19 TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR 50 TO 65 PARTICIPANTS.
DR. RYAN IS FORMER PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR IN NIGERIA. WORK-
ING WITH HIM WILL BE PROFESSOR R. G. ARMSTRONG, HEAD OF
IBADAN'S INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES, AND MS NANA SCHECHIBE
OF UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, WHOSE CENTER OF INTER-
NATIONAL EDUCATION GIVES GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE CREDITS
TO PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

3. DR. MELVIN DRIMMER, AFRICAN FORUM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
PLANS TO ACCOMPANY PARTICIPANTS TO NIGERIA, ARRIVING
JULY 26.

4. DRIMMER, DURING VISIT TO DEPARTMENT, MET WITH ASSISTANT
SECRETARY EASUM AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN COMPLETING
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NIGERIAN PROGRAM. INCLUDED WERE REQUESTS FOR GROUP MEET-

INGS WITH AMBASSADOR REINHARDT; RANKING NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS; LEADING NIGERIAN ARTISTS, WRITERS, AND

EDUCATORS. VISITS TO SCHOOLS, HEALTH CARE AND CHILDREN
CENTERS ALSO SUGGESTED.

5. DRIMMER SAID PARTICIPANTS INTERESTED IN NIGERIAN MASS
COMMUNICATIONS, ESPECIALLY EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION, AND
PLANNING FOR 1975 BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL.

6. FORUM PARTICIPANTS LAST YEAR MET DURO LADIPO AND SAW
PERFORMANCE OF HIS GROUP. ALSO HAD AUDIENCE WITH OBA OF
LAGOS. SIMILAR ATTRACTIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED THIS YEAR.

7. RYAN WILL VISIT EMBASSY TO DISCUSS PROGRAM AND TO
FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS. FORUM HAS FUNDS FOR HONORARIUMS FOR
GUEST SPEAKERS AND TO DEFRAY COST OF A RECEPTION FOR
PARTICIPANTS, WHO ALSO WILL VISIT OSHOGBO, OYO, IFE,
ABEOKUTA.

8. AMERICAN FORUM FOUNDED IN 1968 TO ESTABLISH EDUCATIONAL
PROGRAMS IN AFRICA. THIS YEAR'S GROUP CONSISTS MAINLY OF
UPPER CLASSMEN AT VARIOUS AMERICAN COLLEGES, BUT INCLUDES
10 TO 15 COLLEGE FACULTY. KISSINGER

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